

inspection report, CIL is considering granting coal linkage to HBI. Coal linkage to other plants shall be considered by CIL as and when the other parties approach CIL.

Pending Cases in Kerala

6490. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of civil and criminal cases pending before the High Court of Kerala for disposal; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the early disposal of these cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) As on 31.12.1996, 2,10,303 Civil cases and 7,520 criminal cases were pending in the Kerala High Court.

(b) Apart from amending the procedural laws from time to time, Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Conference of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and other concerned with the administration of Justice are held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progress closely monitored.

North-East Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation

6491. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the financial allocation to the NEHHDC during each of the last three years and proposed to be allocated during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the details of achievement of the NEHHDC during the last three years;

(c) whether a dye-house was established at Guwahati by the NEHHDC in 1984 with financial assistance from the NEC;

(d) whether the activities of the said dye-house was suspended since 1994 for want of working capital; and

(e) if so, the action taken by his Ministry to provide the working capital so that the only dye-house established by the NEHHDC in the North East remain functional ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development

Corporation Ltd., Shillong, during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was allocated a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs each and the proposed allocation during the Ninth Plan period is to the tune of Rs. 5.70 crores.

(b) The turnover of the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation increased from Rs. 4.09 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 5.26 crores during 1995-96. During the last three years i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, the Corporation held 83 exhibition for marketing of handicrafts and handlooms of the North Eastern Region, in different parts of the country and nearly 1400 artisans were benefitted directly. The Corporation also participated in India International Trade Fair (IITF) 1995 at New Delhi in which total sales generated was to the tune of Rs. 5.44 lakhs and organised a special North East Craft Fair at Bangalore during 1996-97.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Dye House was established with financial assistance from the Government.

(d) The activities of the dye house were suspended since 1994, due to accumulated losses suffered by it since its inception.

(e) Does not arise.

Problems of Textile Mills

6492. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister had convened any meeting of representatives of the Federations of textile sector and the Members of Parliament of various parties for taking steps to solve the problems of textile mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken at the meeting and the time by which these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Coal Handling Project

6493. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsreport in the 'Business Standard' dated April 10, 1997 under the caption "Coal handling project to cost Rs. 110 crore more";

(b) if so, the details of the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Surface Transport, the project for mechanised coal handling facilities at Paradip Port was sanctioned by the Govt. in April, 1993 at a cost of Rs. 587.41 crores. The project was scheduled to be completed in April, 1998. However, present anticipated date of completion is December, 1999. The Revised Cost Estimates are yet to be prepared by the Paradip Port Trust after getting a realistic picture. The progress of the project is being monitored regularly by a High Level Steering Committee (HLSC).

[Translation]

Irrigation by Solar Energy

6494. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether irrigation with the help of Solar Energy is being done in the Country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign country has provided financial assistance for these experiments;

(d) if so, the name of the country and the conditions thereof; and

(e) the nature of pilot projects likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1993-94 Government have introduced a new programme to support deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) water pumping systems for agriculture and related uses. Under this programme, till 31 March, 1997 a total of 1953 solar PV water pumping systems have been deployed in different parts of the country, of which 66 have been installed in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Government have not sought or received any foreign assistance for this operational programme.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Performance of PSUs in terms of MOU

6495. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evaluated the Performance of Central Public Sector Undertakings for 1996-97 in terms of Memorandum of Understandings signed;

(b) if so, details of emerging trends of Performance by standard parameters and classification, PSU-wise;

(c) the names of top ten PSUs for their outstanding performance for 1996-97 and bottom ten for their failure to perform;

(d) the details of fresh policy initiatives proposed for better performance of Central PSUs and signing of MOUs with revised focus; and

(e) the tentative time schedule for signing of MOUs and progress made for MOUs of 1996-97 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No Sir, The process is on.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Important policy initiatives undertaken in the MOUs are (i) relatively more emphasis on qualitative parameters like project implementation, R&D, HRD, etc. (ii) The ACRs of the Chief Executives of MOU signing PSEs has been linked to the MOU score in order to improve accountability, (iii) To improve target setting, benchmarking studies are being carried out by professional bodies in respect of various sector. & (iv) 60% of weight in the MOUs has been allocated to financial criteria in order to ensure fiscal discipline.

(e) MOUs are expected to be signed as early as possible with signing by 31st March being considered excellent. So far 99 signed MOUs have been received. Total No. of MOUs expected to be signed is 109.

[Translation]

Solar Energy

6496. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of energy generated from tidal